

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL DORADO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 282386

TOSEC 13

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC DIA INFO KUALA LUMPUR RANGOON
PHNOM PENH SAIGON VIENTIANE CINCPAC HONOLULU HI FROM
BANGKOK 27 DEC 74:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 20066

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, TH, (KITTIKACHON, FIELD MARSHAL THANOM)

SUBJECT: THANOM RETURNS TO THAILAND - SITREP AS OF 1245 LOCAL
TIME

REF: FBIS D270419Z DEC 74

1. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTERS, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAKOP
HUTASING ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING, DECEMBER 27, THAT FORMER
PRIME MINISTER FIELD MARSHAL THANOM KITTIKACHON ARRIVED
UNANNOUNCED AT DON MUANG AIRPORT AT 0400 HOURS LOCAL TIME
VIA LUFTHANSA AIRLINES. AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT HAS IT THAT
AIR CHIEF MARSHAL BUNCHU CHANDRUBEKSA, FORMER RTAF CHIEF,
MET THANOM AND SAW HIM SAFELY THROUGH IMMIGRATION. PRAKOP
IS TRYING TO NOTIFY PRIME MINISTER SANYA (WHO IS OUT OF TOWN)
AND IS CONVENING AN EMERGENCY CABINET MEETING TO CONSIDER
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THE MATTER.

2. ACCORDING TO THE CONFLICTING INFORMATION WE HAVE, THANOM IS EITHER STAYING AT DON MUANG OR AT HIS OLD RESIDENCE ON SOI RANONG II. WE HAVE HEARD THAT HE "WAS TAKEN" TO PRIME MINISTER SANYA'S HOUSE EARLIER THIS MORNING, BUT FOUND SANYA NOT AT HOME. THE POLICE ARE IN THE DARK AS TO HIS WHEREABOUTS, AS FAR AS WE KNOW.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND (NSCT) MAY BE TRYING TO MUSTER A PROTEST RALLY.

4. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES, WE ARE STATING CATEGORICALLY THAT THE EMBASSY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THANOM'S DEPARTURE FROM THE UNITED STATES, AND WILL DECLINE TO SPECULATE IF ASKED ABOUT THANOM'S POSSIBLE RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES. KINTNER UNQUOTE BROWN

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